MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: (*a*) 366.

(*b*) A statement by caste of the teachers taken over from private schools is given below:

Statement by caste of the teachers taken from private schools, in the compulsory area.

1.	South India United Church	154
2.	Jacobite	1
3.	Roman Catholic	3
4.	Latin Catholic	2
5.	Hindu Vaniya	3
6.	Sambavar (Salvation Army)	19
7.	Anglican	3
8.	Marthoma	3
9.	Brahmin	3
10.	Hindu Nair	76
11.	Daivampady	1
12.	Ezhava	6
13.	Nadar	40
14.	Sambavar (Hindu)	11
15.	Maravar	1
16.	Hindu Krishnanvaka	1
17.	Hindu Pandaram	1
18.	Hindu Chetty	2
19.	Hindu Yadhava	2
20.	Hindu Varier	1
21.	Other Hindus	1
22.	Muslim	2
	Total	336

Optional subjects in Fourth Form.

322. *MR. K. A. MATHEW: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that by the sudden introduction of the system of optional subjects in Fourth Form in English Schools in the State this academic year considerable hardships and inconveniences are being caused to the schools, to the pupils and to the parents;

(*b*) what the opinion of the headmasters of the schools on the matter was;

(*c*) the reasons for hurriedly introducing it; and

(*d*) whether Education Reorganisation Committee had recommended the introduction of this optional system?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: (*a*) Yes; to some extent, which is inevitable with regard to all new Schemes in the initial stages.

(*b*) Some of them appear to have expressed the opinion that the scheme might be implemented next school-year.

(*c*) with a view to implement the recommendations of the Education Reforms Committee, which have been accepted by Government, as early as possible.

(*d*) Yes, the member is referred to the Education Re-organisation Committee Report, Chapter III, Section 5 (Page 40).

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MR. P. O. THOMAS: May I know from the honourable member whether the majority of the headmasters were in favour of implementing the scheme this year itself?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: There was a full and free discussion with regard to the syllabus and I think that it was mainly concentrated on the various aspects of the syllabus. There was no definite understanding that it should depend upon the vote of the Headmaster whether the scheme should be introduced this year.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether the Headmasters were not for introducing the system this year?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: Some were feeling that it may be too early this year, and some felt that they would make an honest trial.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: But what was the concensus of the opinions?

PRESIDENT: Was the meeting convened for that purpose?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: The meeting was convened to discuss the syllabus.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know from the honourable member whether the Government are aware that most schools were not prepared for the scheme because of the lack of convenience, lack of preparations and the lack of arrangements for introducing the optional system which was suddenly imposed upon them.

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: That is not quite correct. In every school, there is provision for the teaching of Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and practically every branch. The only change that was made was that the boy or girl should take up any four of these subjects instead of taking the whole lot. So provision must certainly exist in every school.

MR. K. A. MATHEW: May I know whether they have sufficient text books for teaching subjects like Chemistry, Economics etc. which are included in the optional subjects?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: There are sufficient number of text books, Sir.

English High School, Parur.

323. *MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the sheds of the English High School, Parur have been thatched this year; and

(*b*) if so, when, and if not, why not?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In the month of Mithunam.

MR. E. K. MADHAVAN: May I know from the member why it was not thatched early?

MR. A. NARAYANAN TAMPI: We were trying to get a contractor for months. Each man was asking a different rate day after day. Finally one man came to save the situation and he was given the contract.

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